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The Ladies Answer

TO THAT

Bufie-Body,

Who wrote the *Life and Death of DU VALL.*

I'Le tell thee senseless *Fool*, who e're thou be,
Thou art a *Thief*, by far more base than he :
Du Vall a little *Wealth* did onely take,
Which they who lost it, got perchance by *Cheat*.
Wealth, which poor *Mortals* heap they n'ere so fast,
Pitiless Death will take them from at last.
This unworthy to be call'd a *Man*,

Breast, or monst'rous *Africa*.

Would from our *Ladies* that *Bright Honour* have,
Which out-lives *Us*, and triumphs o're the *Grave*.
Honour's a Thing too *Sacred* and *Divine*,
Once to be touch't by such rude *Hands* as thine.
How dar'st thou blame such mild and generous *Tears*,
Or strive to blast their *Pity* with thy *Jeers*?
If they were sorry, 'twas not that their *Thoughts*
Approv'd his *Crimes*, or justifi'd his *Faults* ;
Yet so much *Valour* as the *Prisoner* had,
And so much *Youth*, might make a *Tigre* sad.
The greatest Lords that *England* now can vaunt,
Pity'd him too, and *begg'd* his *pardons* *graunt* :

But them thou dar'st not mention, 'tis thy *fear*
Their *Swords* should find thee out for all thy *care* ;
Onely poor *Ladies*, that have no *defence*,
Nothing to guard them, but their *Innocence*.
These thou pick'st out; their *Arms* are in their *Eyes* ;
And *Love* (thou know'it) disdains so small a *Prize* ;
Which makes thee bold; and glad to venture where
Thou think'st there is not the *way*.
This shew's thy *Narrow Soul*, thy *Little Merit* ;
This shew's thou art all *Gall*, and hast no *Spirit*.
Suppose 'twere true, that any *Lady* here
For the poor *criminal* did shed a *Teare* ;
Those for whose *Beauty's* we were wont to die,
Wee'd now adore for their *Humanitie* ;
And their *relenting Hearts* should bear no more
Those *Marble Names* their *vigour* got before.
I to thy cost would soon defend their *Fame*,
But *Coward* as thou art, thou hid'st thy *Name*.
Coward indeed ! who can'st employ thy *Pen*
Onely against *Weak Women*, and *Dead Men*.

El: C:

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